Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of performing morphological analysis on a text string in natural language processing, the method comprising:

selecting whether or not to decompose a decomposable complex word in response to a request from an application that utilizes a morphological analysis result;

inputting the text string to be processed, wherein the text string is in an agglutinative language and comprises more than one compound word, wherein each compound word comprises a linguistic unit having a semantic meaning;

decomposing the text string into tokens;

when it is selected not to decompose a decomposable complex word, determining whether each token is decomposable;

if a token is not decomposable, registering the non-decomposable token on a token list; and

selecting the optimum token string based on the token list.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein a master dictionary is referenced when decomposing the text string into tokens.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein a grammar dictionary is referenced when selecting the optimum token string on the basis of the token list.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein whether a token is decomposable is determined by determining whether a decomposable flag for the token in the master dictionary is set.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the agglutinative language comprises Japanese.

22. (New) A morphological analyzer for performing a morphological analysis on a natural language text to be processed, comprising:

a dictionary unit storing header words and attribute information of the header words;

a token list generating module configured for referencing data in said dictionary unit, extracting tokens that can form the natural language text from said natural language text to be processed, and registering the extracted tokens on a token list; and

a token string selecting module for selecting optimum token strings for composing said natural language text on the basis of the token list generated by said token list generating module;

wherein said token list generating module comprises program code enabled to select whether or not to decompose a decomposable complex word in response to a request from an application that utilizes a morphological analysis result;

to input text string to be processed, wherein the text string is in an agglutinative language and comprises more than one compound word, wherein each compound word comprises a linguistic unit having a semantic meaning;

to decomposing the text string into tokens;

when it is selected not to decompose a decomposable complex word, to determine whether each token is decomposable;

if a token is not decomposable, to register the non-decomposable token on a token list; and

to select the optimum token string based on the token list.

23. (New) A morphological analyzer for performing a morphological analysis on a natural language text to be processed, comprising:

token list generation means for decomposing said natural language text to be processed into tokens that are components of the natural language text and registering them on a token list except tokens decomposable into smaller tokens; and

token string selection means for selecting optimum token strings for composing said natural language text on the basis of the token list generated by said token list generation means.

24. (New) The morphological analyzer according to Claim 23, wherein said token list generation means selectively controls whether or not tokens decomposable into smaller tokens are excluded from tokens registered on said token list in accordance with the given conditions imposed on the morphological analysis.